

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Letter from the Executive Director, Sarah Parker-Scanlon

It feels like just yesterday when I was writing about the past year and what we hoped to accomplish in 2023. What I can confidently say is, “**we accomplished much more than expected!**” Thanks to unexpected

grant funding from the State of Illinois, Shelter Care received more than \$525,000 in extra money to house an additional 27 households every single night. By the time you read this, Shelter Care will be housing 49 formerly homeless families and 19 single individuals each night. We hope to end homelessness for over 300 people in 2024!

With local communal shelters at capacity and an increasing number of people experiencing first-time homelessness, Shelter Care is needed more than ever. We now have 8 full-time Advocates who work with members of the Jubilee Center and families in Supportive Housing to ensure they have their basic needs met so they can dream of and create a future they can be proud of. Most of the individuals we house have been long-time homeless – they’ve not had a bed of their own or the privacy of their own place for years, sometimes decades. It’s difficult, if not impossible to plan for any kind of future when you have to plan where to sleep each night. Homeless families face different challenges - many have a history of domestic violence and have experienced trauma. When trying to stay safe is your main priority, it’s hard to imagine life free of fear.

With help from Shelter Care staff, these individuals and families have been provided shelter, hope for a brighter future, and a life of dignity. I can’t wait to see what 2024 brings!



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2023

SHELTER CARE YEAR IN REVIEW

218 7TH STREET  
ROCKFORD, IL 61104  
815.964.5520

WWW.SHELTER-CARE.ORG



## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING keeps families together during a housing crisis, many of which are victims of domestic violence. Housing is provided in houses and apartments in safe neighborhoods. Furniture, household items, and clothing are also provided through donations from our community and grant funding. There are four types of housing: Emergency, Transitional, Permanent Supportive, and Rapid Rehousing. Families are supported by housing advocates who assist with long-term goals, referrals, advocacy, emotional support, and encouragement.

**Testimonial:** Before Shelter Care, my son and I were living in Chicago and had to leave everything behind due to domestic violence. I was able to receive an order of protection, but the police were not able to find him to serve him the order. I did not feel safe and knew we had to leave our apartment. It was a terrible feeling, but I had to get my son and me to a safe place. We ended up at the Rockford Rescue Mission until I got a call from Shelter Care. Someone at the Mission told me I should reach out to Shelter Care because they help families. **And they really do help!** The apartment is nice and it feels like home. Everything was there for us (beds, blankets, kitchen items and more). I applied for [permanent] housing, and got a job and was hired. **My goals have been accomplished because of the housing and support I receive from Shelter Care. Thank you!** — June

**“My goals have been accomplished because of the housing and support I receive from Shelter Care.”**



## JUBILEE CENTER

THE JUBILEE CENTER is a one-of-a-kind day program for adults living with chronic mental illness who may be homeless or at risk of homelessness. Members are served a hot breakfast and lunch daily. Staff collaborate with other mental health organizations to provide a continuum of care, advocacy, case management, psychological and medical on-site services, housing, showers, employment, and intervention. At Jubilee, members find an environment where they are not seen as their diagnosis, but as peers, friends, and even family.

**Testimonial:** I became a member of the Jubilee Center this year. I was very new to my mental health diagnosis. Confused, lonely, and a bit shy, I introduced myself to the Jubilee staff in hopes I could restore my confidence by volunteering my spare time. Jubilee gave me that opportunity. I now spend most of my days participating in many activities. I’ve been given a bond with the community that I wouldn’t trade for anything. I’ve learned to greet people with a smile on my face and happiness within my being. **Jubilee has given me such a positive outlook.** They helped me secure employment, housing, food, and clothing. Volunteering at Jubilee gave me the ability to put my best foot forward and apply for a job. **I now have a job that I love and memories that will last through a lifetime. Thank you, Jubilee.** — Lakeisha

**“I’ve been given a bond to the community that I wouldn’t trade for anything.”**

## WHAT YOUR DONATION MADE POSSIBLE IN 2022 -2023

### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**153** People Served

Families Housed **43**

**108** Children Housed

**100%**

of parents and children who exited Shelter Care housing are now stably housed.

### JUBILEE CENTER

**443** Active Jubilee Members

Visits to the Jubilee Center

**18,952**

**17,056**

Meals Served

